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Summary record of the special joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council on "Food security and nutrition: Scaling up the global response"
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 14 February 2013, at 10 a.m.

Co-Chair: Mr. Osorio (President of the Economic and Social Council) ..... (Colombia)
Co-Chair: Mr. Talbot (Chair of the Second Committee)..... (Guyana)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Special joint meeting of the Second Committee and the Economic and Social Council on "Food security and nutrition: scaling up the global response"

Introductory remarks by the President of the Economic and Social Council

1. *A short video prepared by the Department of Public Information was shown.*

2. **Mr. Osorio** (President of the Economic and Social Council), Co-Chair, said that the momentum already achieved in addressing the issue of food security and nutrition must not be lost. Following the pledge made by world leaders at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference) to support efforts to boost sustainable agriculture output and farming productivity, the heads of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme had called, in September 2012, for coordinated international action to address both the immediate crisis of volatile food prices and longer-term structural challenges. The current meeting constituted a response to that call.

3. Following the global thematic consultations on the development agenda beyond 2015 already organized by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Colombian Government, together with the Government of Spain, would be co-hosting a thematic consultation on "Hunger, food security and nutrition" in Madrid on 4 April 2013, with a view to ensuring that the issue was prioritized in the development agenda beyond 2015.

4. The Council was deeply committed to promoting coordinated international action to strengthen food and nutritional security. In addition to its special meeting on the global food crisis in 2008, and its participation in a special joint meeting held in 2009 with the Peacebuilding Commission to discuss the impact of the food and economic crises on countries emerging from conflict, it also dealt with the issue of food security each year in the context of its annual ministerial review. For example, the important work of the Committee on World Food Security had been recognized in the ministerial declaration of the Council's 2012 high-level segment. That Committee's Global Strategic Framework for Food Security and Nutrition represented a major step forward in combating hunger; the challenge now was to ensure that commitments were met.

5. The Secretary-General's work in keeping the spotlight on food security and nutrition, through the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and the Zero Hunger Challenge initiative, should also be commended. As the Secretary-General had said in the video shown at the start of the meeting, in a world of plenty, no one — not a single person — should go hungry. Along with qualities such as hope, focus, pragmatism and determination, cooperation was of vital importance in achieving a hunger-free world.

6. Lastly, he thanked all those who had participated in the two-week social media campaign launched for the meeting, in response to which hundreds of thoughtful observations and questions had been submitted on Twitter and Facebook.

Statement by the Chair of the Second Committee

7. **Mr. Talbot** (Chair of the Second Committee), Co-Chair, said that one in eight people globally, many of them children, suffered from chronic malnutrition. At the same time, according to some estimates, over a third of the world's food — more than enough to solve the problem of hunger — was wasted every year. Volatile food prices offered little relief to the world's poorest, who typically spent over half their income on food. In the Sahel, drought threatened millions more with famine. While the Second Committee, in its deliberations on food security and agriculture during the main part of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, had discussed global initiatives aimed at boosting nutrition and food security at the global, national and regional levels, it was clear that much remained to be done. Governments, the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector, the scientific community and small farmers all had an important role to play with a view to meeting the eminently achievable goal of ensuring food security for all.

8. The two-fold mission of the international community was to address the immediate issue of volatile food prices and to make structural policy changes in such areas as production, consumption and trade. While inadequate investment and low productivity were often to blame for low agricultural yields, land degradation, increasing water scarcity and

climate change made matters worse. Protectionism also distorted global food markets and wasteful agricultural subsidies harmed both the environment and taxpayers. However, some positive trends such as a significant rise in agricultural investment rates in Africa since 2008 and actions by Governments to strengthen safety nets across the developing world represented progress towards fulfilment of the Rio+20 commitment to a future free from hunger. It was encouraging that the recent social media campaign had revealed a public thoroughly committed to the United Nations and to a global response to shared problems, especially on the issue of hunger and food insecurity.

9. The current meeting should focus on identifying the root causes of food insecurity, drawing on global best practices to offer practical solutions and encouraging ever greater cooperation among stakeholders to build support for action, especially in follow-up to the Rio+20 commitments. While that would not be easy, it was incumbent on the international community to rise to the challenge.

Statement by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

10. **Mr. Graziano da Silva** (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)), speaking by video link, said that, according to the latest FAO figures, nearly 870 million people worldwide were hungry. In order to eradicate hunger, it was vital to improve access to food and reduce food loss and waste. The Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target of halving the proportion of people who suffered from hunger was still within reach, with some 50 countries on track to meet that goal; however, advances at the national level must be complemented and supported by international action. Food security and nutrition had been brought to the top of the international agenda for numerous reasons, including increased pressure for nutritious food as a result of growing populations and rising incomes in many developing countries; the threat posed by climate change to food production and traditional livelihoods worldwide; and the clear links between hunger and conflict, including across national borders.

11. Discussions on food security in such forums as the Group of Eight (G8), Group of Twenty (G20) and the United Nations showed that hunger was now recognized to be a political issue; that was vital for any successful effort to promote and implement food security at the national level. The international governance of food security must also be strengthened given that, in a globalized world, no one country or region could be independently food secure. In that regard, the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), launched in 2011 as a G20 initiative to promote food market transparency and encourage coordination of the international response to food price volatility, had proved its worth in 2012. By allowing a rapid response to a sudden food price crisis — mainly caused by extreme weather events affecting corn production in the United States of America — it had succeeded in calming global markets. It was therefore clearly possible to prevent a situation from worsening by reacting beforehand to build resilience. Such pre-emptive action could also avert famine caused by droughts or floods.

12. The Committee on World Food Security was the cornerstone of the new global governance system. It was the most inclusive international platform for all stakeholders, including Governments, international organizations, civil society and the private sector, to work together on the issue of food security and nutrition. In 2012, the Committee had endorsed Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security, which were starting to be implemented at the country level and whose importance had been recognized by participants at the Rio+20 Conference and by the United Nations General Assembly. It had also begun important global discussions on principles for responsible agricultural investments that would, inter alia, protect the rights of local communities and avoid natural resource degradation. A closer relationship between the Committee on World Food Security and the Economic and Social Council would be mutually beneficial.

13. The United Nations system played an important role in supporting global governance of the food system and ensuring that policy decisions benefited the most vulnerable. Ways to better coordinate the work of the United Nations system must be continuously sought in order to ensure that the overall impact was more than the sum of the parts. A good example of such coordination was the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, which was now focusing attention on finding long-term, sustainable solutions to the issue of food security and nutrition, without losing

the necessary sense of urgency. He urged the international community to collectively embrace the Zero Hunger Challenge and, as part of the development agenda beyond 2015, to establish a time frame for ending extreme hunger and poverty in one generation. For its part, FAO fully backed the Zero Hunger Challenge and would actively support those countries that committed to it.

Panel discussion

14. **Mr. Talbot** (Chair of the Second Committee), Co-Chair and moderator, said that the panellists were Mr. Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana; Mr. Amadou Allahoury Diallo, High Commissioner of the 3N Initiative, Office of the President of the Niger; Mr. Jonathan Shrier, Special Representative for Global Food Security, United States Department of State; Ms. Loretta Dormal-Marino, Deputy Director General of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission; and Ms. Isobel Pollock, President, Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He asked the first panellist to describe some best practices with regard to sustainable food protection systems in Guyana, which was considered to be a food secure country, and what steps could be taken to put in place climate-smart agricultural systems that would enhance resilience to climate impacts.

15. **Mr. Ramsammy** (Guyana) said that hunger was not inevitable, since the world had capacity to produce enough food for everyone. Furthermore, food security did not simply mean ensuring an adequate per capita calorie intake; food must also be safe and nutritious. Other challenges such as energy, climate, financial and resource security and trade inequities must be tackled alongside food security issues. Guyana, for example, had been forced to address the issue of climate security in view of the repeated droughts and floods it had experienced over the last decade.

16. People in the Caribbean were no longer interested in agriculture as a subsistence livelihood but as a means of wealth generation. However, Governments should ensure that agriculture was also seen as a public good; to that end, investment in drainage, irrigation, farm to market roads and technology was needed. His Government spent on average 14 per cent of its national budget on agriculture, mainly agricultural infrastructure development. It was also working to reduce food imports and the country was now entirely self-sufficient in poultry products and beef. It was a net exporter of fish and had capacity to export meats to neighbouring Caribbean countries.

17. Investment in research was critical to further develop agricultural capacity. For example, his Government had established a rice research centre that had led to significant increases in yield per hectare, better and more resistant varieties of rice, and improved farming techniques, fertilizers and land husbandry. Such research could not be left to farmers alone but must be seen as a public investment. Many developing countries did not invest sufficiently in agricultural research or were reluctant to share the results. Furthermore, official development assistance (ODA) did not focus sufficiently on the need.

18. As a climate-sensitive country, Guyana was now investing in hydrometeorology services and looking to develop better sea defences and pumping capacity for drainage and irrigation. Investment in modern farming techniques such as hydroponics, drip irrigation and shade technology was also needed in order to improve yields and guard against the effects of climate change, with a view to protecting farmers' investments. In addition, given its aspirations to export food to its Caribbean neighbours, Guyana needed to focus on building additional marketing and information capacity.

19. Lastly, in order to take advantage of economic partnership agreements with the developed countries of North America and Europe, countries such as Guyana must develop their sanitary and phytosanitary standards and policies, which were currently lagging behind those of the developed world. His Government was investing in the development of such standards; however, greater global engagement, particularly at the level of official development assistance, could help countries such as his own to trade with partners on an equal and equitable basis.

20. **Mr. Talbot** (Chair of the Second Committee), Co-Chair and moderator, asked the second panellist to explain how the 3N Initiative, a Government-led comprehensive programme aimed at ensuring food security in the Niger, promoted agricultural development and food security in a sustainable development framework. What had been the achievements to date?

21. **Mr. Diallo** (3N Initiative), speaking by video link, said that the climatic and environmental context in the Niger made it one of the world's most vulnerable countries. While agriculture accounted for some 40 per

cent of gross domestic product, agricultural performance was very volatile owing to high risk exposure. As a result, in the last 30 years the country had suffered multiple shocks that had had a detrimental impact on food availability and affordability, and the population's nutritional status. In order to comprehensively address the roots of food insecurity, the Government of the Niger had launched the 3N Initiative ("les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens" or "the people of the Niger feed the people of the Niger") with the aim of increasing and diversifying production; improving infrastructure and associated capacity for market access; enhancing the resilience of the most vulnerable; improving nutrition; and creating an environment for sustainable food security. In the first five years, it would focus on increasing production, improving nutrition and increasing resilience.

22. Drought posed the biggest risk for agricultural production and triggered food price rises; it was also a source of conflict between pastoralists and agriculturalists, since the Niger was one of the Sahel countries with most livestock. The measures taken to address the threat included the provision of resistant seeds to producers; training in soil and water conservation techniques; and the promotion of small-scale irrigation. Some 80 per cent of agriculturalists in the Niger were smallholders, with less than one hectare of land.

23. With regard to nutrition, the situation of children in the Niger was of particular concern. One in five children died before the age of 5, and half of all children were malnourished. That situation was being addressed through a network of rehabilitation centres for malnourished children, as well as by helping smallholders, especially women, to diversify their crop production in order to provide children with better quality food, and by launching an educational campaign to change behaviour, since increased food production did not always lead to a reduction in malnutrition.

24. Efforts to improve resilience involved providing households with seed, fertilizer, chickens, goats or sheep, and materials to facilitate access to water, as well as promoting social safety nets for vulnerable individuals. Measures taken at the village level included the establishment of agricultural input shops, animal vaccination units, women's market gardens and cereal reserves, while at the municipal level, all-year vehicular road access and agricultural training centres were being promoted. It was important to link efforts to improve resilience with work to improve local production. In that regard, the Niger, with FAO support, was learning from the experiences of the Brazilian Fome Zero programme.

25. The 3N Initiative had been in place for only a year; consequently, it was hard to assess the achievements to date. However, in 2011, despite a poor harvest, the Niger had averted famine and prevented population migration by starting to implement the strategy. Livestock had been kept alive by ensuring access to water and providing forage and supplemental nutrients. Child mortality had also been reduced because of centres set up in rural areas. However, most significantly, experience had been gained in implementing the Initiative, which would enable further improvements to be made in the future.

26. **Mr. Talbot** (Chair of the Second Committee), Co-Chair and moderator, asked the third panellist to describe the domestic and global impact of the recent drought in the United States of America and to set out some of the policies that had been, or could be, implemented to address extreme events and natural disasters as they affected agricultural production and food price volatility in the United States. How could global efforts to increase food security be scaled up?

27. **Mr. Shrier** (United States of America) said that the 2012 drought had been the most damaging to United States agriculture since that of 1988. It had affected corn and soybean production in the United States, corn production in Europe, wheat production in the countries of the former Soviet Union and soybean production in South America. However, despite the drought, global rice production was at record levels, the global grain and oilseed production outlook remained strong, and global corn production in 2012/13 was projected to be only 3 per cent lower than in 2011/12. In the United States, wheat production had been largely unaffected by the drought, although global wheat supplies were predicted to be 5 per cent lower than the previous year, largely owing to reduced harvests in the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Wheat prices remained well below levels recorded in 2007/08. His Government monitored food prices closely and was working with the international community to respond appropriately. According to the latest FAO Food Price Index, raw commodity prices, which had trended down in recent months, remained well below the peak reached in February 2011.

28. Thanks to the assistance provided by his Government to sustain the productivity and resilience of domestic farmers and ranchers affected by the drought, the United States remained one of the world's most reliable suppliers of food and agricultural products, a global leader in farm exports and the world's largest food aid donor. Starting in October 2012, the United States Department of Agriculture and other federal agencies had held drought partnership workshops to outline the resources available to assist with local, regional and state recovery efforts. Among specific steps taken to address the immediate needs of farmers, the Department of Agriculture had provided some $200 million in feed and forage to livestock producers in 2012 by opening conservation lands to emergency haying and grazing; lowered the borrower interest rate for emergency loans for farmers; worked with crop insurance companies to provide more flexibility; and provided financial assistance for moving water to livestock, implementing land and water conservation practices, and rehabilitating seriously drought-affected land. It had also recently released two significant reports in support of the 2013 National Climate Assessment, which could be used by federal agencies, cooperative extension services, communities and farmers to develop strategies for better managing their agricultural and forestry resources.

29. Raw commodity prices tended to have little impact on retail food prices. Annual food price inflation in the United States averaged 2.5-3 per cent and, while it was expected to be slightly higher in 2013, in a projected range of 3-4 per cent, that was still well below some of the major inflation spikes witnessed in previous years. According to Department of Agriculture forecasts, United States agriculture was poised for its fourth consecutive year of record exports in fiscal year 2013.

30. While it was difficult to identify a single cause or solution, his Government had played an active role in helping to reduce excessive food price volatility and alleviate its effects, while consistently seeking to promote free trade. To achieve food security, it was vital to facilitate countries' ability to sell food to each other and to support strong, integrated agriculture markets, which would increase the availability of safe and nutritious food, reduce local prices and expand economic growth. His Government therefore urged all countries to support sound policies that promoted agricultural growth, facilitated reliable trade flows and mitigated price volatility, as well as to invest in the critical innovations that could transform their agricultural sectors. In the short term, countries could reduce food price volatility by increasing transparency and sharing information on stocks and production; abstaining from export bans and using export quotas and taxes sparingly; avoiding panic buying and hoarding; reducing import tariffs and taxes; and creating targeted safety nets for the most vulnerable. While such forums as the G8 and G20 were already responding to food price volatility, including through the recent launch of AMIS and the Rapid Response Forum, it was also important to help countries to improve agricultural productivity, invest in storage and distribution infrastructure, improve access to local, regional and global markets, make the global food system more productive and efficient, and reduce vulnerability to price shocks.

31. According to FAO estimates, the world would need to produce at least 60 per cent more food by 2050, in order to respond to the growing global population and changing diets. It would therefore become increasingly important to produce food in places, and using technologies and techniques, that allowed the most efficient use of limited resources such as water and land, particularly in view of the challenges of climate change. Feed the Future, the United States Government's global hunger and food security initiative, actively integrated nutrition and agriculture interventions. Strong nutrition, particularly during the 1,000-day window from the start of a woman's pregnancy until the child's second birthday, contributed to economic growth and poverty reduction by helping to produce a healthy, capable workforce. While the 2009 G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, and the subsequent adoption of the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security, had been a pivotal moment in bringing the world together to renew its commitment to agricultural development and food security, it was vital to keep up the momentum. At the 2012 G8 Summit, the United States had worked with its G8 partners, African leaders, international organizations and the private sector to launch the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, which would work to catalyse local and international private investment in African agriculture, food security and nutrition, with the goal of lifting 50 million people out of poverty by 2022. Also in 2012, the G8 countries and the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania, Ghana, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire,

Mozambique and Burkina Faso had developed cooperation frameworks, by means of which the G8 countries had agreed to align development resources to country-specific investment plans and their African partners had agreed to make specific policy changes to drive private sector investment. Private companies had also signed letters of intent to invest in those countries across the agricultural value chain.

32. **Mr. Talbot** (Chair of the Second Committee), Co-Chair and moderator, said that the remarkable resilience of the agricultural sector in the United States could perhaps provide an indication of what needed to be done to strengthen the agricultural sector in developing countries, where similar droughts often had a very different impact. It was to be hoped that the possibilities for sharing the United States experience with developing countries would be fully explored. He asked the fourth panellist to describe the linkages between agricultural and nutrition policies within the European Union and to indicate what policies were being adopted to preserve employment and rural development and ensure nutrition security, particularly in view of the trend towards austerity measures by many European Union Governments. What could be done to scale up the global response for food security and nutrition?

33. **Ms. Dormal-Marino** (European Commission) said that food security was one of the overarching objectives of Common Agricultural Policy reform, bearing in mind that a potential food crisis was always only one harvest away. In broad terms, it was necessary to guarantee long-term agricultural production in a way that was economically and environmentally sustainable, territorially balanced, and that avoided a negative impact on others, especially the more vulnerable. In its reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, the European Union proposed to retarget direct support, implement greening measures, and take a number of steps to ensure the socioeconomic development of rural areas. With regard to greening, farmers would be required to respect mandatory measures linked to soil, carbon and biodiversity. In addition, rural development policy measures would address specific environmental concerns, including climate change adaptation and mitigation, and provide support to address depopulation and the relative poverty of rural areas. A significant commitment to agricultural research was key to ensuring medium- and long-term sustainability while reversing the slowdown in productivity growth. New provisions would ensure that research more closely addressed farmers' practical questions and that knowledge was transferred more effectively.

34. On the demand side, consumers must have the knowledge to take responsibility for their nutrition. The European Union had developed a robust policy on food labelling and, through initiatives such as school milk and school fruit schemes, had sought to influence future consumers by improving children's nutrition and educating them for the future. It worked closely with its member States — each of which had its own national initiatives in public health and nutrition policy — on a number of issues, including obesity-related health problems. Agricultural policy needed to become more sensitive to consumer concerns on dietary patterns linked to certain non-communicable diseases; consequently, dialogue between the farming community, public health authorities and the educational sector must be enhanced. There was also huge potential for improving consumer education. With regard to food waste, the European Union had set itself the target of halving edible food waste and virtually eliminating landfill by 2020.

35. The European Union was actively involved in world policy discussions on agriculture and food and nutrition policy, and was committed to working in the Committee on World Food Security, as well as the G8 and G20 processes. It would remain the world's leading donor for food security. It had updated its development policy through its "Agenda for Change", which placed great emphasis on agriculture as an engine for growth and food security in developing countries and recognized the vital role of the private sector. It would be working to accelerate the flow of private capital to African agriculture and, in that connection, was organizing a high-level seminar to be held in April 2013.

36. The European Union had recently strengthened its action to foster resilience in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa through its Supporting the Horn of Africa's Resilience (SHARE) and AGIR-Sahel (Alliance Globale pour l'Initiative Résilience Sahel) initiatives. Furthermore, the European Commission had pledged to support partner countries to reduce the number of stunted children under 5 years of age by at least 7 million as part of the efforts to reach the World Health Assembly goal by 2025. A communication on nutrition, defining its strategy policy framework to achieve that target, would soon be adopted.

37. Bearing in mind that 8 billion of the estimated 9 billion people in the world in 2050 would live in developing or emerging countries, it was vital to boost agricultural production in a sustainable way if poverty and hunger were to be eradicated. Raising the incomes of farmers was also crucial for food security, since agriculture was the main economic livelihood for those most vulnerable to hunger. While the European Union stood ready to support its partner countries' commitment to that agenda, developing countries themselves must prioritize agriculture and rural development policies within their overall economic development process and provide political leadership, especially in supporting small farms, which had the greatest potential to scale up productivity and boost incomes. Governments must implement coherent agricultural policies focused on local production, sustainable agricultural practices and local markets. There was also a need for public and private infrastructure investment, which was particularly urgent in sub-Saharan Africa.

38. The European Union had endorsed the Committee on World Food Security Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests and was committed to supporting their implementation, since land governance and secure access to land were prerequisites for food security and higher agricultural productivity for vulnerable groups. It also supported the process launched by the Committee on World Food Security to develop principles for responsible agricultural investments.

39. Markets must be more open and transparent. Continued efforts were needed to conclude the Doha Round at the Ninth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference to be held in Bali in December 2013. Moves to impose export restrictions or export bans should be reconsidered. Overall, a strong international institutional framework was needed to coordinate private and public initiatives, and ensure coherence and synergies. FAO should play a central role in that regard. Lastly, the European Union remained strongly committed to follow-up on the G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture.

40. **Mr. Talbot** (Chair of the Second Committee), Co-Chair and moderator, asked the fifth panellist to describe the reasons for global food waste, the role of the international community, Governments and the private sector in reducing such wastage, and ways of scaling up the global response with a view to its elimination.

41. **Ms. Pollock** (Institution of Mechanical Engineers) said that an estimated 30-50 per cent of the food produced annually worldwide did not reach the human stomach but the reasons for that waste differed. In developing countries, spoiling in the supply chain between field and market was a major factor, exacerbated by poor crop handling at harvest, as well as inadequate storage and transport infrastructure. Waste in developed countries occurred more often through rejection and unnecessary purchasing in the marketplace, while loss in consumers' homes was due to wastefulness. In both cases, however, the engineering knowledge and technology were available to increase the volume of food available for all, but a broad-based response involving all sectors was required.

42. The international community must establish mechanisms to transfer engineering know-how and appropriate technologies from developed to developing countries to prevent unnecessary crop losses and food waste. International bodies such as FAO and the Committee on World Food Security must develop programmes to establish globally agreed definitions, methodologies and standards to monitor, measure and report on food waste and loss, and disseminate the findings to help drive cultural change. Governments in developed countries must work proactively to reduce food waste caused by wasteful marketing practices and consumer behaviour. In addition, they should work with engineers and technical experts to ensure that suitable equipment was supplied to developing countries through international aid programmes. Governments in rapidly developing nations should ensure that new infrastructure projects included appropriate technology to minimize food losses, and should provide technical training to enable skilled personnel to carry out effective onward operation and maintenance. Governments of newly developing nations should work with local farmers and retailers to develop robust communities and adequate storage and transport facilities drawing on best practice available. The aim should be to provide local solutions for local people.

43. The private sector in developed economies should practice corporate and social responsibility by working with Governments to educate consumers on the cost of wasted food, water and energy. Private companies had

a key role to play in deploying leap-frog technologies to allow developing countries to skip unsustainable development stages. In order to scale up the global response, all stakeholders must work in partnership to transfer engineering knowledge to other countries and change public attitudes towards food waste, as well as purchasing and marketing practices. Instead of growing more food, countries should focus on using engineering skills and the available technology to address food loss and waste. Engineers must be innovative in the application of sustainable solutions but required strong support from Governments. The overall goal should be to ensure that more food reached the human stomach by strengthening the supply chain infrastructure through engineering and technical knowledge.

44. **Mr. Verbeek** (World Bank) said that enough food was produced in the world to end hunger but more attention must be devoted to identifying the right domestic and international policies, since directing more money towards bad policies would not deliver results. While specific policy responses would, and must, differ from one country to the next, all countries must focus on basic nutrition and the provision of social safety nets. The first 1,000 days of a child's life were crucial and conditional cash transfer programmes and school feeding programmes were required to ensure better nutrition. In addition, social policies must contain relevant targets.

45. Agricultural policies were also important and efforts should be made to boost productivity, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, strengthen the link between agriculture and nutrition and empower women. Better access to markets for farmers could be achieved through improved infrastructure and enhanced international trade relations, especially among developing countries. A multisectoral approach was needed and countries should create synergies between different policies. Local conditions should be taken into account in scaling up domestic and international policies, and food security should not be equated with nutrition security. High-level policymakers and politicians must pay more attention to nutrition security by focusing on the micronutrition components of the food being produced.

46. **Ms. Gustafson** (Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition) said that food supply and food security programmes must offer both environmental and economic sustainability. The West should listen to the developing world, since fresh ideas were needed and they might come from the developing world first. Agriculture must help to mitigate the effects of climate change instead of compounding the problem. Moreover, it was important to focus on more than just commodity agriculture, since achieving resilience and efficiency required better metrics for sustainability. Countries should measure good nutrition, biodiversity, environmental sustainability and waste reduction to move beyond the long emphasis on commodity yield. Further discussions were needed on food waste and losses and how that affected food production and consumption policies. The international community should be cautious in modelling food systems in the developing world on those in the developed world, since those systems had resulted in obesity problems in addition to considerable food waste. Domestic, culture-specific health and nutrition goals should be supported by all stakeholders and frank discussions should be held to identify concrete actions to curb food waste. It was important to ensure that countries were not just scaling up old ideas, since innovative measures were needed to create a world free of hunger.

47. **Ms. Jones** (Save the Children) said that malnutrition was the single largest contributor to child mortality and the first 1,000 days of a child's life were critical. Save the Children was working to scale up a package of evidence-based interventions and innovative strategies to prevent and treat the major causes of malnutrition, illness and death. At the country level, a multisectoral integrated approach was vital and should include measures on social protection, agriculture and child survival. Nutrition and health should be integrated and firm leadership and clear lines of responsibility were needed. The civil society movement could help by raising the profile of nutrition and holding Governments and other stakeholders to account.

48. Stunting was a key way to measure progress in achieving food security and Governments must prioritize nutrition as a way to reduce stunting and significantly improve child health and improve economic growth. The World Health Assembly had adopted a new global target of a 40 per cent reduction in the number of stunted children by 2025, but that target needed further momentum and must be localized to succeed. At the international level agreement on common terminology was needed. In addition, donors from rich countries should give priority to nutrition at the forthcoming G20 and G8 meetings and should

monitor funding more effectively and more transparently.

49. Her organization welcomed the increased global focus on addressing malnutrition but urged countries to do more to reach the most vulnerable. Increasing agricultural productivity and income would not improve nutrition without deliberately designing ways to improve dietary diversity. The post-2015 process should include a goal on eradicating hunger, halving stunting and ensuring universal access to sustainable food, water and sanitation. Together the international community should focus efforts on reducing hunger and poverty in addition to building economic growth. Above all, commitments must be translated into action.

Interactive dialogue

50. **Mr. Osorio** (President of the Economic and Social Council), Co-Chair and moderator, invited the members of the Committee and the Council to begin an interactive dialogue.

51. **Ms. Perceval** (Argentina) said that her delegation shared the goal of revitalizing the Economic and Social Council and ensuring that it was at the centre of discussions on priority issues. Argentina was one of the world's major food producers and the Government was working with all sectors to devise policies to improve food security for all. To that end, public and private investment in technological innovation was vital and must reach all sectors. Agricultural markets were naturally volatile but the solution to excessive volatility was not artificial reductions in commodity prices. Hunger was not caused by volatility; it was the result of poverty and the unfair distribution of wealth. Artificially low food prices discouraged investment in agriculture and undermined development in many regions, including Latin America and the Caribbean. The solution was to boost food production, improve access and strengthen policies to promote investment in food.

52. For many years, Argentina had been urging the developed countries to put an end to distorted trade policies and protectionist subsidies which hindered access to markets, created unfair competition and had a negative impact on production. International trade should work in favour of food security, not against it. There was a high correlation between food price volatility and financial speculation, and such speculation must be addressed urgently through fair, balanced regulations. Hunger was a complex issue that had to be tackled in a comprehensive manner, but addressing distorted trade practices in deregulated markets was paramount.

53. **Ms. Ribeiro Viotti** (Brazil) said that in order to ensure food security the international community must increase production in developing countries, reduce waste everywhere, address trade imbalances and resolve market access problems. Her delegation agreed with the comments made by the delegation of Argentina concerning agricultural subsidies and price volatility and firmly believed that scaling up the global response to hunger and food insecurity must continue to be at the core of efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and devise a post-2015 agenda. Countries should pursue a more ambitious zero hunger goal; her delegation would welcome further information about the practical measures that could be implemented to achieve that goal.

54. **Mr. Moulton** (South Africa) said that food security and nutrition had become a pressing global challenge. The international community must strengthen and revitalize agricultural and rural development in a sustainable manner. Supporting small-scale food production was especially important since it was the main form of food production worldwide. In order to combat hunger and achieve the Millennium Development Goals, States should enhance market transparency and reduce import barriers and export restrictions. In addition, urgent measures were needed to mitigate the effects of climate change, especially in Africa. The developed countries should consider revising the high subsidies provided to farmers as those had a negative impact on developing economies.

55. Supporting small-scale women farmers could go a long way in enhancing food production given that women constituted the majority of small-scale farmers in developing countries. Women farmers needed equal access to productive resources, services and opportunities, and should be involved in decision-making processes affecting food security and agricultural development. Interventions such as cash-for-work projects and voucher programmes should be strengthened. South Africa welcomed the global partnerships established to address food insecurity, as well as the due recognition given to the critical role that the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme played in addressing African

food security and agricultural development. Research on food and agriculture was vital; international, regional and national bodies must work together to increase the availability of data and promote better policy decisions. Lastly, his delegation sought further information from the panel on the practical steps that could be taken to strengthen international cooperation.

56. **Ms. Ntyam-Ehya** (Gabon) said that her delegation was concerned that horse meat could have found its way into the Gabonese market due to Gabon's close trade links with the European Union. It therefore sought further information on the food supply chain in Europe and asked what steps the Government should take to address the situation transparently.

57. **Ms. Al-Hadid** (Jordan) asked for guidance on how to ensure that global efforts to overcome food insecurity were aligned and had a sustainable impact.

58. **Mr. Ozaki** (Japan) said that establishing long-term food security required both technical and scientific analysis and political momentum. The Committee on World Food Security served as a very important international forum on global food security and nutrition, and his delegation hoped that the Committee would continue to play a leading role in establishing the post-2015 agenda in those areas.

59. **Mr. Forster** (International Partners for Sustainable Agriculture), speaking on behalf of a food and agriculture cluster of civil society organizations and major groups, said that addressing food and nutrition security required a holistic, ecosystem-based approach involving all stakeholders and focusing on women and small-scale farmers. His delegation would welcome further information from the panel on the link between urbanization and resilient food systems and the balance to be achieved in ensuring sustainable food and nutrition security. Urban-rural linkages were important and food system resilience meant having multiple diverse sources of food supply. Farmers needed to be linked to distributors, markets, consumers and waste recovery mechanisms, and to that end cross-sectoral and cross-ministerial approaches should be adopted to create synergies between health, agriculture, economic development and biodiversity. Coordination at the international level must be strengthened so that good policies and practices implemented by innovators and early adopters could be replicated. Lastly, countries should work to improve markets and trade through a rights-based approach.

60. **Mr. Schikorski** (Germany) said that the right to food was a human right and Governments must create the necessary political, institutional and legal frameworks to ensure food security for all. His country therefore supported the Right to Food Guidelines adopted by FAO and was working to ensure that FAO policies and programmes incorporated that right. German development policy addressed the multiple causes of food insecurity and Government measures were designed to strengthen the ability of individuals and communities to help themselves and build resilience. Countries should adopt an integrated approach to food security which included coordinated action at the national and international levels involving the private sector and civil society. International standards and initiatives were also important, and common ownership was key to their success. In particular, his country supported a participatory approach to the development of principles for responsible agricultural investment. Natural resources must be used efficiently and food supply should be prioritized over energy and biomass production. In addition, biodiversity should be preserved and agricultural production systems should be resilient to new weather conditions and have a minimal impact on climate change. Lastly, partnerships with the private sector should be strengthened and new ones established.

61. **Mr. Lakhal** (Tunisia) said that although the World Trade Organization had adopted measures to help food importing countries to overcome price volatility and the negative effects of free trade, implementation of those measures needed to be strengthened. His delegation wondered what additional steps could be taken to provide financial and technical assistance to the developing and least developed countries to combat food price increases triggered by the international financial crisis.

62. **Mr. Ramsammy** (Guyana) said that agriculture played a critical role in ensuring nutrition security but was not merely a food-producing activity. Its contribution to energy security was becoming increasingly important, especially as land was being allocated for the production of biofuels. His Government was committed to engaging in the production of biofuels but was adamant that no land for food would be sacrificed for biofuels. Non-communicable diseases could not be addressed without proper nutrition and more research was needed to ensure that nutritional food was being produced.

Hunger was not the result of a lack of food and was instead the result of poor access to food and persistent inequities. Urgent measures were therefore needed to tackle those issues.

63. **Ms. Dormal-Marino** (European Commission) said that the European Union's rapid alert systems had pinpointed the presence of horse meat in the food chain very swiftly and there was no threat to health. Possible solutions were being discussed and one option was to reintroduce measures to ensure that meat could be traced to its original source. That could entail additional costs and barriers, however, and the matter therefore required careful consideration.

64. The Commission adopted an integrated approach to food and nutrition security and its policy framework was focused on the first 1,000 days of a child's life. It was working to mainstream nutrition into projects relating to agriculture, food security, health, water and sanitation. In 2009 it had established a nutrition advisory service and had produced a very useful document on addressing undernutrition in external assistance.

65. **Mr. Shrier** (United States of America) said that more investment was needed in agriculture and food security but it had to be responsible investment. The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme served as a model for country-led development which had been replicated in other parts of the world. On nutrition, his country's Feed the Future initiative had incorporated improvements in nutrition as one of its overarching goals and, like other G8 members, the United States was committed to detailing expenditure and programmes in that area transparently.

66. Countries should focus on women as an important part of the solution to food insecurity and undernutrition. Women in developing countries needed equal access to the best quality inputs in order to boost food production. The United States supported all partnerships among countries and was actively engaged with numerous countries in three-way partnerships to promote food security in developing countries. However, countries should deepen their coordination efforts in order to end hunger.

67. **Ms. Pollock** (Institution of Mechanical Engineers) said that engineers should be involved in processes relating to food and nutrition security as they could provide technical expertise, as well as independent assessment of best policy outcomes. The right measures were needed to bring about cultural change, tackle food waste and losses and overcome challenges relating to water, land and energy. The technology was available already and precision farming was increasingly being used to measure crop productivity, but on the nutrient side countries needed to develop better ways of measuring dosing in products.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.